



Examination Work Sample

Media Production and Analysis | ATAR | Year 12

This sample one-page *Practical production statement* represents a student’s attempt to address the 2020 Practical (production) examination requirements listed below from the design brief in the syllabus.

In their statement, the student response to the production choice section of the design brief could have more explicitly identified the way the submission reflects the course syllabus, though the student does mention the Unit 3: media art syllabus by way of discussing auteur.

Practical (production) examination design brief – Year 12

Provided by the candidate

- One completed production
- A completed Practical (production) submission cover sheet
- A signed Declaration of authenticity
- A one page Practical production statement

SUBMISSION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Practical production statement	<p>The candidate is required to submit one A4 page in length (single sided in Arial 11pt font) document which demonstrates the candidate’s understanding and application of the production process. The following areas must be discussed within the statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a rationale outlining the intent of the production, acknowledging influences if applicable • an explanation of how production skills were used throughout the production, including the application of the primary and secondary roles. <p>The candidate can include other materials, for example, annotated pre-production planning or screen captures, providing the total statement does not exceed one page.</p>
Production choices – reflecting the course syllabus (Media art and/or Power and persuasion), the production will consist of one of the following:	
<p>Audiovisual production</p> <p>Duration: no more than 5 minutes</p> <p>100% of the practical examination</p>	<p>One completed production that can be viewed in no more than 5 minutes duration.</p> <p>The candidate is required to nominate a primary and secondary production role(s), which will be assessed within the production and supported by the practical production statement.</p> <p>The production can include, but is not restricted to, film, television or animation.</p> <p>Productions to be submitted on BD-R, DVD or USB. File formats must be capable of being played in VLC Media Player (www.videolan.org).</p>

Note: this sample complies with examination margin requirements, font size and font type.

The accompanying film and school-based planning work will be placed on the Authority extranet in the Grading materials section for this course.

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Rationale / Intention / Influences: Fool's Gold, is a short film inspired by the works of the Coen Brothers, such as Fargo, which uses many establishing shots with opening text sequence to communicate tone and mood. Fool's Gold is about an old prospector in search of gold. He traverses untouched bushland, seeking fortune for his family. The Coen Brothers have unexpected character deaths in their films. I wanted to include this in my film; killing the prospector in an unexpected way. The gold is bait from nature, luring the prospector to his death. When he finds gold, he is killed by nature, stabbed in the back of the head. As his gold falls back into the river, his body returns to nature. Coen Brothers films utilise beautiful cinematography and colour grading that fits the tone of the film. Narratives often include black humour and dramatic irony. This is something I wanted to strive for; having both strong visuals and a developed narrative is very important for audience engagement.

1. Ext VAST HILLSIDE AND MOUNTAIN RANGES Day

MYSTERIOUS VOICE (VO)
These landscapes are both beautiful and deadly, all at the same time. Where one sees beauty, the other sees only death.

MYSTERIOUS VOICE (cont'd) (VO)
But what lies out here, so far away from civilisation? There are rumours that a river flows through these hills that contains all the gold you will ever need. These rumours are enough for an old man to traverse these lands.

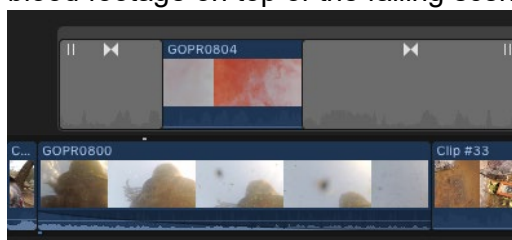
MYSTERIOUS VOICE (cont'd) (VO)
Throughout his life, he has only gained misfortune. He has lost his job, his friends, his family. Looking for this river is his last chance at good fortune. But how far will someone go to rewrite their own fate?

CUT TO:

Production Skills: During script writing, I intended to have a voice-over narrating the story. After watching Fargo, that used titles at the beginning to communicate setting and narrative, I thought that would be a better alternative; the use of text makes the opening feel more serious than a 'voice of God' narrating the film. Since Fool's Gold is set during the Australian gold rush, I undertook research to ensure the film was historically accurate.

Primary Role: Editor

I backed up and correlated the clips from the filming onto my computer. I then imported them into Final Cut Pro X. I trimmed clips, added sound fades, cropped where necessary, changed the colour grading of the footage, added titles, inserted transitions for changes between clips and visual effects, such as split screens between two clips. In Fargo Season 2, the Coen Brothers use split screens to communicate two different camera distances of the same scene. I included this in Fool's Gold to connect to their style and to visually enhance my film. I did this by making the bottom footage on the timeline, slide towards the right, layering on top of the footage in the middle of the timeline, creating a split screen effect. I then made a black line track alongside the footage, which emphasizes the two camera distances. When the prospector falls into the river, the scene of him falling and the blood dispersing into the water are two different clips. I layered the blood footage on top of the falling scene and lowered the transparency of that clip, so that it seemed like the blood was going from the prospector's head wounds, even though they are two different clips. To show the passing of time during the prospectors search for gold, I used the cross dissolve transition in-between cuts I created in the footage. This makes the prospector fade in and out through this scene along the riverbed, creating a sense of time passing.



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Secondary Role: Cinematographer

My secondary role as the cinematographer was to film the shots based off my pre-production script and storyboard. I used a Sony Handycam with a built-in microphone and interchangeable 18-55mm and 50mm lens, a tripod and a GoPro Hero 5 for underwater shots. I chose the 18-55mm lens as it has a wide angle and the 50mm lens for more close up shots. Establishing wide shots show the expansive landscape, while 50mm cutaways focus on animals. I organised a 2 month filming schedule during holidays and weekends. The first month was a set-back; arriving at the filming location, Bell's Rapids, despite heavy rain, the river was dry. I was limited to filming shots that didn't include the river, roughly 33% of the film. I returned every weekend hoping the river would be flowing. It wasn't until the second month where water started flowing. This last month of filming went extremely well. I completed all the river shots, before the rapids became too dangerous.

